



## LAWLER'S ADDRESS.

The Speech of Commander-in-Chief Lawler in Opening

## THE TWENTY-NINTH ENCAMPMENT

Of the Grand Army of the Republic at Louisville—The Condition and Membership of the Order—The Subject of Pensions Treated—Grand Army Men in the Government's Employment.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Sept. 12.—The address of Commander-in-Chief Lawler in opening the twenty-ninth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic covered his work for the past year. Among other things, he said:

*Comrades, as we leave this place at the close of this encampment let us feel like going home to those less favored than we who are permitted to come here, filled with a great love for our grand organization, and urge all to join and labor with us in the grand work of fraternity, charity and loyalty.*

*Comrades of this mighty fellowship, with more to bind us than mere word or grip,*

*Let us dedicate ourselves to liberty again. To holy memories of duties done. To true resolves in duties just begun. To aid the widow and the fatherless. To readiness, if e'er our country calls, to march to the rescue of our walls. And strike again, as we have struck before, for that dear flag our fallen comrades bore.*

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The prosecution also showed that Durrant's hat and coat were not in the drug store when King entered the church, but were there when he returned from the drug store. The inference will be drawn that Durrant wanted to get King out of the church, not to bring him relief with a drug, but to give himself time to recover from his consternation and an opportunity to carry his coat and hat from the rear of the church to the library, where it had been his habit to place them while working in the church.

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## PENSIONS.

This is a question that we, as an organization, feel a deep interest in. We know that all the legislation enacted by Congress in the interests of the old soldier has been brought about by or through the influence of this great, powerful organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, and those of us who are more fortunate physically than others propose to keep it up just as long as we live. And while we are not asking for any new pension legislation, we do ask and insist that when a law is passed by Congress that its provisions as intended by them shall be carried out and not misconstrued and misapplied by any man or set of men of any party who may be in power. I am not a lawyer, but I know the verdict of any court of law men would be that after a man has furnished the proofs and has been granted a pension, that pension cannot be taken away from him without due process of law. I know this is being done, however, all over the land, for I have seen the evidences of it in every department in which I have been—pensions reduced from \$12 to \$8 and from \$8 to \$6, and many cut off entirely. Then again, a man who applied for a pension two or three years ago will receive a notice that his claim is rejected, then notified that his case is re-opened and allowed, but only from the time of re-opening, thus cheating a worthy man out of \$300 or so. Many of our comrades thus dealt with are not able to bring suit to test the constitutionality of this sort of ruling of a pension commissioner. I would, therefore, recommend that the incoming counsel of administration be empowered to select a case and prosecute the same. It has been the custom of encampments to appoint a committee to prepare some testimonial for the retiring commander-in-chief. I recommend that no such committee be appointed this year, but that this money be used in making a test case as to the constitutionality of the act of June 27, 1890.

Speaking of Memorial Day Commander Lawler said: Comrades let us see to it that the day is kept as a Memorial Day; let us demonstrate in our own communities any desecration of the day, such as races and games, excursions, balls and other amusements—of which there is too much on this day—the tendency is to forget the objects of its observance and to make it a day of pleasure and recreation.

## A NEEDED COMMITTEE.

On my first visit to Washington, D. C. (when I did not see the President) my heart was pained as I listened to the recital of the sufferings of our comrades, and widows and orphans of our late comrades, caused by their dismissal from the departments, and their belief in the power of our great organization to again restore them to places from which they claim they were dropped without cause, convinced me that we ought to have a special committee to look after and help them. I do there-

fore recommend that my successor be empowered to appoint a committee of three for this work.

And now, comrades, I thank you for the high honor which you conferred upon me one year ago, and as I go down the hill of time I will always remember with pride and gratitude the pleasure of this year's service; and when I take my seat at the close of this encampment simply as a member of it, I hope that you will feel that I have done my duty and that I have brought no discredit to the Grand Army. I desire to thank all my personal staff and all the officers of this encampment for their faithfulness and fidelity to duty, who have supported me so loyally and who have performed so well every duty required.

Comrades, as we leave this place at the close of this encampment let us feel like going home to those less favored than we who are permitted to come here, filled with a great love for our grand organization, and urge all to join and labor with us in the grand work of fraternity, charity and loyalty.

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The prosecution also showed that Durrant's hat and coat were not in the drug store when King entered the church, but were there when he returned from the drug store. The inference will be drawn that Durrant wanted to get King out of the church, not to bring him relief with a drug, but to give himself time to recover from his consternation and an opportunity to carry his coat and hat from the rear of the church to the library, where it had been his habit to place them while working in the church.

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